

Jennifer woke up and stretched her arms way above her head. It was a Monday morning, and Jennifer knew she would have to hurry to be on time for school. Jennifer felt something prickly in the back of her throat and swallowed. Ow, her throat hurt very badly! Jennifer swallowed again and still felt a sore throat. She lay back in bed and pulled the covers up over her head. "How did I get so lucky to have a sore throat on a Monday morning?" Jennifer thought. "Oh well, there is no way I can go to school like this. I'll just have to stay in bed."

"Get up, lazy bones," Jennifer's mother said as she came into the room, "You're going to be late to school." "I can't go to school today, Mom," said Jennifer. "My throat really hurts." "Hmm," said Mom, "let me take a look."

"Well," she said as she looked down Jennifer's throat, "your throat does look red, so I guess we'll have to go to the doctor." Jennifer hated going to the doctor's office, but she knew that if she said no, she would have to go to school. "OK, Mom," Jennifer said as she slid down under the covers.

Later that morning, Jennifer and her mother drove to the doctor's office. "Mrs. Smith," the doctor said, "your daughter's tonsils are very red and swollen, and they will have to be taken out." "Oh, no," Jennifer said, "I wish I had gone to school." The doctor said he could take out Jennifer's tonsils on Friday and would expect to see Jennifer at the hospital Friday morning.

"Mom," Jennifer said on the way home, "I'm really scared. I don't want to go into the hospital." "I know, Jennifer," said her mother, "but if your tonsils are sore, and the doctor says they have to be taken

out, then you'll be fine." Jennifer wasn't so sure she'd be fine, but she knew better than to say any more.

On Friday morning Jennifer and her mother drove to the hospital. Jennifer felt scared inside but knew she had to be brave. A nurse checked her in and took her down to her room. "I'm really frightened," Jennifer said to the nurse. "Well, Jennifer," the nurse said, "that is a very normal feeling. Let me tell you what we do when we take your tonsils out." After the nurse told Jennifer what would happen to her, Jennifer felt a little bit better. At least the nurse did not tell Jennifer that she was being silly.

Jennifer woke up feeling groggy after the doctor took her tonsils out. The first person she saw was her mother leaning over the bed. "How are you feeling, Jennifer?" asked Mom. "OK, but my throat really hurts now," said Jennifer. Just then the nurse came in with a dish full of ice cream. "You will have a sore throat for a couple of days until your throat heals," said the nurse. "You're going to need to eat lots of ice cream for the next two days."

Jennifer smiled with happiness and relief. She was glad that her tonsils were finally gone and that she could eat ice cream for the next two days. "Maybe," Jennifer thought, "getting your tonsils out isn't so awful after all."

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